

## **EWM General Assembly Meeting 2009**

### **Minutes taken by Laura Ciobanu**

2pm Thursday, 27 August 2009

1. **Welcome** from the current EWM Convenor, Frances Kirwan. All important decisions concerning EWM are taken at the General Assembly meeting.
2. **Appointed people to take notes at the assembly:** Camilla Hollanti, Finland and Laura Ciobanu, Switzerland.  
**Appointed to check the minutes:** Frances Kirwan and Caroline Series, UK.  
**Appointed to count any votes:** Camilla Hollanti, Finland. In the event no votes were needed.
3. **New members:** The General Assembly accepted those who had become members since the last general meeting, and those who became members during this general meeting.
4. **Minutes of the previous General Assembly:** The minutes of the previous General Assembly, held during the 13th general meeting of EWM in Cambridge, September 2007, were approved.
5. (i) **Auditors:** The current auditor, Tuire Huuskonen, and accountant, Kaija Heinua, will continue their duties.  
(ii) **Secretary:** EWM no longer has a secretary since the Finnish Government stopped payments for this position. In the meanwhile the Standing Committee will take over the duties of the secretary. The assembly gave its thanks to the retiring secretary, Paula Steinby of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Turku, for her work for EWM.
6. **Financial report:** Frances Kirwan presented the final report for the general meeting in 2007 and the attached financial report for EWM, which were approved.

The auditors had suggested that those responsible for liabilities should be discharged of their responsibility. The General Assembly discharged them of responsibilities.

7. **Membership fees:** It was agreed that the present rates will be kept: that is, the annual membership fees should be either 5 Euro (low contribution), 20 Euro (standard contribution), or 50 Euro (high contribution). It was noted that the fees could be paid in Euros directly to the EWM bank account in Finland by contacting Camilla Hollanti; detailed payment information would be put onto the EWM website.

8. **Election of Standing Committee for 2009-2011:**

The Standing Committee is required to have between 8 and 12 members, including the convenor and deputy convenor.

The **continuing members**, elected for four-year terms in 2007, of the Standing Committee were:

Camilla Hollanti, Finland  
Frances Kirwan, UK  
Daniela Popova, Bulgaria and USA  
Magdalena Roszak, Poland.

The **retiring members** were:

Badrieh Kojok, Lebanon and Canada  
Marjo Lipponen, Finland  
Dusanka Perisic, Serbia  
Tatiana Vassilieva, Russia.

One current member of the Standing Committee was **re-elected**:

Sylvie Paycha, France.

The following were elected as **new members** of the Standing Committee:

Dorothy Buck, UK  
Lisbeth Fajstrup, Denmark  
Ruth Kellerhals, Switzerland  
Sanja Rapajic, Serbia  
Marie-Françoise Roy, France (Convenor from 2010).

It was agreed that Marie-Françoise Roy would become convenor in February 2010, at which point Frances Kirwan would become deputy convenor.

9. **International and regional coordinators:**

It was agreed that the international coordinators should remain in post. The following countries did not have an active coordinator who

had responded to emails and therefore proposals were needed for regional coordinators for Austria, Azerbadjan, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine. It was agreed that all proposals should be sent to Camilla Hollanti.

10. (i) Link with EMS (European Mathematical Society): Sylvie Paycha.  
Link with AWM (Association for Women in Mathematics): Daniela Popova and Sandra Hayes.

Link with emerging countries: Marjorie Bachelor.

(ii) Newsletter editors: Sara Munday, UK and Elena Resmerita (Austria).

(iii) Email network: Olga Lukina, UK.

(iv) Website: The EWM website needs to be improved. Several people, including Olga Lukina, Elizabeth Baldwin, Sanja Rapajic, Caroline Series and Marie-Françoise Roy were prepared to help with this, and the Standing Committee was asked to look for a more permanent home for the website (presently housed by the Univeristy of Turku).

11. **Proceedings for the Cambridge EWM Meeting:** These are close to completion, and the main editor has been Sylvie Paycha. It was agreed that there would be no published proceedings for the Novi Sad meeting; instead a conference DVD, including plenary lectures and interviews with participants, would be made. The Assembly discussed whether published proceedings for future general meetings should be made, or whether a conference DVD might be preferable. Publication of proceedings can be a difficult undertaking due to the variety of areas of mathematics that need to be refereed and the uneven quality of the papers.

12. **ECM 2008 Amsterdam:**

It was reported that EWM and the EMW Women and Mathematics Committee had organized a one-day meeting immediately before the 2008 ECM in Amsterdam on Sunday 12 July 2008. The meeting had good speakers but was only organised six months in advance and had very limited funding. It was noted that in order to attract a large audience to such an activity it was highly desirable to have funding available to support participants and to advertise properly at an early enough stage.

13. **EWM/EMS Scientific Committee:**

It was reported that in 2008 a Scientific Committee, consisting of twelve leading women mathematicians, was established jointly by the European Mathematical Society (EMS) and EWM. The committee's remit is to provide advice to the EMS and EWM on scientific questions involving women and mathematics, such as suggesting scientific topics and speakers for the biennial EWM meetings. The membership of the committee is as follows:

Viviane Baladi (ENS, Paris, France)  
Eva Bayer (Lausanne, Switzerland)  
Christine Bernardi (Paris VI, France)  
Christine Bessenrodt (Hannover, Germany)  
Antonella Grassi (U Penn, USA)  
Ursula Hamenstaedt (Bonn, Germany)  
Dusa McDuff (Stony Brook, USA)  
Ragni Piene (Oslo, Norway)  
Vera Sos (Renyi Institute, Budapest, Hungary)  
Ulrike Tillmann (Oxford, UK), chair  
Nina Uraltseva (St Petersburg, Russia)  
Michele Vergne (Ecole Polytechnique, Paris, France).

More details can be found at

<http://womenandmath.wordpress.com/emsewm-scientific-committee/>.

Several committee members were participants in the Novi Sad meeting.

14. **3rd EWM Nordic Summer School:** This was organised by Camilla Hollanti in June 2009 in Turku, Finland; more details can be found at <http://www.math.utu.fi/projects/ewm/>.

The summer school was very successful, and it was reported that the inclusion of male participants has been a very positive aspect of this event.

15. **Blog:** It was reported that the EMS Women and Mathematics Committee now has a blog established by Dusanka Perisic at

<http://www.math.helsinki.fi/EWM/index.html>

with a link from the EWM website. Members of EWM were encouraged to participate in the blog.

16. **Next general meeting:** The 15th general meeting is being planned for the first week in September 2011 at the Centre de Recerca Matemàtica (CRM) in Barcelona, Spain. The structure of the CRM (which is a member of ERCOM) was presented by Marta Sanz-Solé.

17. **Other future activities:** (i) ICWM 2010.

There will be a two-day meeting, the International Conference of Women Mathematicians (ICWM 2010) immediately before the ICM in Hyderabad, on August 17-18, 2010. This meeting was proposed to the IMU Executive Committee by EWM, and the scientific programme has been planned by the EMS/EWM Scientific Committee with the addition of two women mathematicians from India; more details can be found at

<http://www.icm2010.org.in/icwm2010.php>.

Women mathematicians intending to attend the ICM were encouraged to participate in the meeting. It was suggested that ICWM 2010 should be advertised in the EWM newsletter, and that the European Platform for Women in Science should be contacted about it.

(ii) An EWM Summer School will be held in 2011 in Leiden, The Netherlands (hence the attribute 'Nordic' is to be dropped) with the following organizers:

Janne Kool (Utrecht)

Dion Coumans (Nijmegen)

Andrea Hoffman (Oslo)

Erwin Dassen (Leiden).

(iii) It was hoped that there would be a one or two day EWM meeting, similar to the meeting in Amsterdam in 2008 and to ICWM 2010, before the ECM in 2012. Lisbeth Fajstrup mentioned an important Mathematical Physics meeting that will take place in Denmark, and suggested that an EWM meeting before that would be welcome. Help would be needed to see if this suggestion were feasible.

18. **EWM Foundation/Trust Fund:** The setting up of an EWM Foundation or Trust Fund has been suggested by Ruth Kellerhals, and some very preliminary steps towards the realization of such a foundation, under the auspices of EMS, have been taken by Frances Kirwan in discussions with the EMS President and other members of the EMS Executive Committee. The Assembly discussed some of the potential

pitfalls in setting up such a Foundation, and the need to have a clear procedure on issues such as decision making on the use of the Foundation's funds and from what sources donations could be accepted. It was envisaged that the Foundation would be separate from EWM but its aims would be similar to EWM's, it would include EWM in its name and EWM might nominate some of its board of trustees (or other overseeing body).

19. **Logo:** The gift to EWM of the logo of the Novi Sad conference was gratefully received and the logo was approved as an official EWM logo. It was agreed that the Standing Committee should consider issues concerning the copyright of the logo in Serbia and in the EU, and how it might be used by EWM members on private homepages.